

Correctional Trainers Recognized at Statewide Conference for Excellence

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Since January of 2005, we have worked hard to make the Department of Correction in Indiana a leading agency and I am proud to say that Indiana has began to lead the way in the field of Corrections, your dedication and determination has been instrumental to our success and I know Staff Development and Training will be at the forefront of our future successes."

Commissioner J. David Donahue



Statewide Trainers at Correctional Training Institute.

New Castle, Indiana - (March 12, 2007) - The Indiana Department of Correction attended the first Statewide Trainers Conference at the Correctional Training Institute from March 6-9. The training was kicked off by Commissioner J. David Donahue and Director of Training, Dan Ronay.

"This state-wide training is a great opportunity to further the progress and dedication of the DOC trainers," stated Commissioner J. David Donahue. "This is an extraordinary group charged with

developing and delivering effective training for future professional development."

Sixty-five trainers from each correctional facility, parole offices and community corrections in the state attended the events, interactive teambuilding exercises, and networking opportunities. The training explored current and cutting edge modules such as Re-entry and Training, Leaders & Teachers, Computer Based Training & E-Learning and Developing a Curricula.

Jim Boldman, Facility Training Coordinator for the Correctional Industrial Facility said, "This was the first real conference we have had as trainers, and we were treated and felt like a family!"

Correctional Trainer and Emergency Squad member, Ryan Fairfield from the Plainfield Correctional Facility stated, "It was awesome to meet and see that a leader knows and cares for his people."

Assistant Director of Staff Development and Training Nancy Riley led the trainers in invigorating teambuilding activities.

Director Ronay made opening remarks at the banquet, "I am very proud to lead such an amazing group of trainers who are dedicated to the training of 8,000 correctional staff."

Commissioner Donahue captivated the audience with several accounts from his 26 year career in corrections, echoing that training is the foundation of our profession. He urged all trainers to meet the challenges that lie ahead, to help ease change through education and continue to do a fine job each and every day.

"Since January of 2005, we have worked hard to make the Department of Correction in Indiana a leading agency and I am proud to say that Indiana has began to lead the way in the field of Corrections, your dedication and determination has been instrumental to our success and I know Staff Development and Training will be at the forefront of our future successes," added Donahue.

The conference ended with an Awards Banquet to recognize the leading trainers in the Department. The trainers were joined by the Department's leadership team: Commissioner, J. David Donahue and Deputies, Julie von Arx, Cecil Davis and Bruce Lemmon.

The banquet closed with an award ceremony where all trainers cheered their peers. The entire Division joined in thanking the Commissioner for his vision, leadership, and support as Dan Ronay presented J. David Donahue with an engraved wood-carved podium as a token of appreciation.

Deputy Commissioner Bruce Lemmon received a wood-carved book stand and a framed "Re-entry" placard to guide him in his new duties as the new leader of Re-entry.

Award-winning trainers included:

- Kathy Goen, Regional Training Manager received the coveted "Director's Award" for her outstanding performance, diligence, and leadership.
- Supervisor of the Year was shared by Darrell Fox Correctional Training Institute and Betty Cunningham Indiana Women's Prison
- Training of the Year was given to Phillip Sonnenburg, Westville Correctional Facility
- Matt Andrick Miami Correctional Facility received the Adjunct Trainer award
- The Rising Star Award was captured by Shannon Bowling, Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility
- The Facility of the Year went to Westville Correctional Facility
- The Division Program staff member was presented to Sharon Dickinson, Secretary at the Correctional Training Institute.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.